

Application No. 10/517,251

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress aberrant immune activity, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) administering a compound to be screened to a non-human transgenic animal that has been modified to express human FcγRIIa receptor such that the transgenic animal is susceptible to an autoimmune disease; and
  - b) assessing the transgenic animal to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the animal, wherein the non-human transgenic animal is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis prior to being modified to express the human FcγRIIa receptor.
2. (Currently Amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress an autoimmune disease, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) administering a compound to be screened to a non-human transgenic animal that has been modified to express human FcγRIIa receptor such that the transgenic animal is susceptible to an autoimmune disease; and
  - b) assessing the transgenic animal to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the animal, wherein the non-human transgenic animal is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis prior to being modified to express the human FcγRIIa receptor.
3. (Currently Amended) A method for screening a compound that is able to suppress an autoimmune disease, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) administering a compound to be screened to a non-human cell expressing human FcγRIIa receptor, wherein the cell is derived from a non-human transgenic animal that has been modified to express human FcγRIIa receptor such that the transgenic animal is susceptible to an autoimmune disease, wherein the non-

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY***Application No. 10/517,251*

human transgenic animal is resistant to collagen-induced arthritis prior to being modified to express the human FcγRIIa receptor; and

b) assessing the cell to determine if the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the cell.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound reduces aberrant immune activity selected from the group consisting of aberrant immune complex formation, aberrant immune complex clearance and immune complex induced inflammation.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes the additional step of:

(c) assessing the transgenic animal to determine if the compound reduces immune complex induced inflammation.

6. (cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-human transgenic animal is a transgenic mouse derived from the strains C57BL/6 and SJL that has been modified to express human FcγRIIa receptor.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the compound reduces aberrant immune activity in the animal by inhibiting the activity of FcγRIIa expressed in the animal.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) the aberrant immune activity is assessed in terms of clinical symptoms and/or pathological features of an autoimmune disease.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

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*Application No. 10/517,251*

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is collagen-induced arthritis (CIA).

13-42. (Cancelled)